



## ARRA Broadband Grants Rhode Island Workshop

July 16, 2009

ATTENDEES	
John Landers (Co-chair-Broadband Review Committee)	Division of Information Technology-DOA
Michael Pickett (Co-chair-Broadband Review Committee)	Brown University
Thomas Ahern (Broadband Review Committee)	Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
Carole Cotter (Broadband Review Committee)	Lifespan
Stuart Freiman (Broadband Review Committee)	RI Economic Development Corporation
Tony Lupinacci (Broadband Review Committee)	Division of Information Technology –DOA
David Porter (Broadband Review Committee)	University of Rhode Island
Stephen Vieira (Broadband Review Committee)	Community College of Rhode Island
Ken Belcher	Roger Williams Medical Center
Ty Brennan	Salve Regina University
Clyde Briant	Brown University
Susan Cerrone Abely	Roger Williams Medical Center
Michele Cinquegrano	Verizon
Ralph Fasano	Rhode Island School of Design
Alison Ferreira	OSHEAN
Ray Galang	Berklee College
Jose Gervasio	Division of Information Technology—DOA
Dave Hemendineer	Lifespan
Roger A. Iannetta, Jr.	Cox Communications
John Kent	Verizon
Susan A. Latoille	OSHEAN
George Loftus	OSHEAN
Hugh Meier	Broad Reach
Morgan Morrone	OSHEAN
Patrick Murphy	Cox Communications
Ross Nelson	Cox Communications
Carmine Piscopo	Providence College
Rebecca Ramos	Providence College
Tim Rue	OSHEAN
Nimota Solola	OSHEAN
Tim Wells	Brown University

[Reporting: Carol Ciotola]

**Introductions**—J. Landers welcomed attendees to the Workshop, then he and the other Broadband Review Committee members introduced themselves.

**Overview**—M. Pickett presented an overview of ARRA Broadband grants, the BTOP and the charge of the Broadband Review Committee. This PowerPoint presentation (attached), including an additional slide of the Governor's Press Release that was not part of the original handout, will also be posted to the Governor's Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment ([www.recovery.ri.gov](http://www.recovery.ri.gov)).

**Questions/Comments**—Questions/comments expressed at the Workshop follow:

- J. Landers—Applications for BTOP's requiring 20 percent matching funds would be viewed more favorably by Federal officials if they include higher percentages of matching funds, including in-kind services, and would receive higher scores.

- G. Loftus—Would the Committee's scoring criteria be made available to applicants prior to the deadline date for submitting proposals? J. Landers—Yes.
- T. Brennan—Does the \$1.6 billion amount in the "Logistics" slide represent all three rounds of applications? M. Pickett—No, just the first round. J. Landers—This amount reflects the allocation for the entire country.
- M. Pickett—Are there any groups thinking about preparing applications at this time? J. Loftus—OSHEAN is preparing to submit an application for the first round. M. Pickett requested that he provide the Committee with details.

M. Pickett—Encouraged collaboration among groups, especially public/private, since the State would most benefit from these efforts resulting in a layered project application. M. Pickett offered to have the Committee serve as a clearinghouse for applicants to coordinate efforts. He presented the following e-mail address ([recoveryri@gov.state.ri.us](mailto:recoveryri@gov.state.ri.us)) for inquiries, which feeds to the Governor's Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment website.

- G. Loftus—Glad to hear that the Broadband Review Committee will assist in matching up applicants. The Library community and the City of Providence are working with OSHEAN on its application, and he expressed his willingness to explore other options (e.g., public housing agencies).
- H. Meier—Is there existing data to show unserved/underserved areas? J. Landers—Although there is grant funding available for Broadband data mapping, these data are not currently available.
- H. Meier—Is there a sense of the tolerance level identified as underserved areas? J. Landers—Federal officials do not currently have data to verify these areas; thus, they would have to rely on the applicant's information until Broadband data mapping is available. G. Loftus—There is opportunity, however, to challenge the maps. M. Pickett—There are several areas where Rhode Island is likely to be underserved, such as Block Island and the Town of Foster, because it is not cost effective for for-profits to provide fiber.

T. Ahern—Since for-profits have not extended their networks in unserved/underserved areas because it is not cost-effective to do so, they may want to look into applying for grant money, instead of using shareholder funds, to install fiber.

- H. Meier—Are there non-fundable eligibility factors? If so, what are they? J. Landers—Referred him to the Federal website [www.Broadbandusa.gov](http://www.Broadbandusa.gov) that provides a list of those eligibility/non-eligibility factors.
- J. Landers—Requested input on whether there are additional private partners that this Committee should be reaching out to and; and if so, asked for advice on how best to expand this opportunity to them.
- T. Ahern—If non-OSHEAN members collaborated with OSHEAN and received funding, would they be allowed to connect to its network? G. Loftus—Only OSHEAN members are allowed to access its network; however, connections for organizations not fitting the criteria for membership could be made available through commercial partners.

**Adjournment**—M. Pickett asked attendees to advise on whether they wish to meet again prior to the deadline date for the first round of applications. He adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.